

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
1 March 2001 (01.03.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/14412 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C07K 5/02**

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/23049

(22) International Filing Date: 23 August 2000 (23.08.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/150,260 23 August 1999 (23.08.1999) US
60/151,169 27 August 1999 (27.08.1999) US
60/152,696 7 September 1999 (07.09.1999) US

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates generally to new compositions of matter and methods for investigating or designing compounds for use in the treatment of a disease or disorder, and more particularly to compositions that a) mimic β -strands, b) block β -sheet dimerization of proteins, c) block protein-protein β -sheet interactions and/or interact with proteins by β -sheet formation and as well as d) methods for investigating or designing compounds that mimic β -strands and/or β -sheets, e) methods for treating diseases or disorders by administering therapeutically effective amounts of such compounds to human or veterinary patients and f) methods for using a new protecting group (an L-lysine or butylthioester) in the synthesis of peptides.

WO 01/14 2 A1